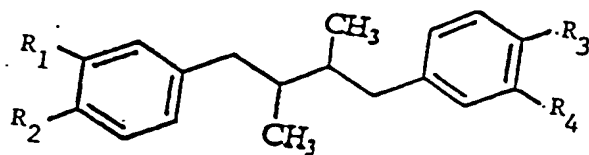


U.S. Patent Application of Huang et al.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for suppressing undesired viral growth in a host which comprises administering to the host an effective amount of 1,4-bis-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound administered is a compound of the formula:



wherein  $\text{R}_1$ ,  $\text{R}_2$ ,  $\text{R}_3$  and  $\text{R}_4$  are independently  $\text{HO}-$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{O}-$ ,  $\text{CH}_3(\text{C}=\text{O})\text{O}-$  or functional equivalent thereof.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the functional equivalent is water-soluble.

4. The method of claim 1 for suppressing Herpes simplex virus in the host.